Dec 20, 1997

Mr & Mrs Gene Telser

San Diego, CA.

When you sent me the Japanese coins for my collection you caused a monetary collapse in Japan which continues to reverberate throughout the Asian rim. It must have triggered a balance of payments change which brought about bankruptcies, foreign exchange instability, and banking uproar.

We have had a year to remember. We never stop working and today the glass panels of Evelyn's Butterfly House are being set into the frame. We have over $5,000,000 raised to cover the building which will be spectacular. The organization itself is simple to run, since our board of directors or trustees is 3 people and their husbands. All decisions are made by us without meetings and publicity. We have lots of people on committees who get their names printed and who do nothing. We have daily arguments with the architects, but our contractors are great (so far).

Writing has been a blessing to me and I edit much material written by others. My files go back over 50 years and I have to furnish detail to others as to the turmoil of the past. My museum was bucked out of the bank where it had been for 20 years and for no reason except that it did not contribute to the bottom line of the bank in the short run as all they want to do is sell out or buy other banks. The display cases, library, furniture and collection are in storage waiting for some new development. Three eastern museums are begging for it, but that doesn't satisfy me as long as I am active.

The bankruptcy of Edison Brothers is over and we have nice wall paper. The creditors as owners are not doing any better than our former management even though all bad leases were dumped. Retailing on the fashion field is just in the dog house.

I have a fine year litigation in Los Angeles to handle for a New York museum and we have finally won a decision for about $1,000,000 for property stolen from the museum, bought by an innocent party and concealed from us after knowing it was stolen. It may be appealed. Lawsuits are horrible at best and ours was the worst.

Our granddaughter Kate is returning from the Peace Corps next month and falls into those who sincerely believe "it's the toughest job you'll ever love." Joshua & his new wife are spending the holidays in Florida and will visit Andy's restaurant in Orlando. Abigail is at NYU drama school. Danny (Andy's oldest) is a political influencer in California and will aid Feinstein etc. Tony is at M.I.T. getting his doctorate in philosophy and is teaching at Harvard and M.I.T. as part of his training. I have no idea what he is talking about when he tells me something.

We look forward to seeing you on your visit, Linda & Don will be here for a day or so during Xmas and thus we have many things to look forward to. As long as our health (mind + body) hold up we are fine.

Our love to you and yours Thrine

Evie